

## CLAIMS

1. A method of analyzing a flow for an accounting application, comprising:  
mapping protocol information of a first protocol type to protocol information of a second, independent protocol type for the flow; and  
using the results of the mapping to provide well-informed accounting information related to the flow to the accounting application.

*Sub B.1*  
The method of claim 1, wherein mapping comprises:  
capturing an IP packet from a network segment;  
determining if the captured IP packet includes a message of the first protocol type for providing error reporting, the message having an IP packet that triggered an error event embedded within, the embedded IP packet being of the second protocol type and having a flow associated therewith; and  
correlating the flow associated with the embedded IP packet to a stored parent flow of a given state, thereby associating the error event with the given state of the stored parent flow.

*Sub 2*  
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first protocol type is the Internet Control Message Protocol.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the second protocol type is the Transmission Control Protocol.

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